

Message Text

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11

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SS-20 NSC-07 PRS-01 PA-04 SAM-01

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DRC-01 /085 W

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P 050646Z JUL 74

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO USIA WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1360

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USLO PEKING

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 HONG KONG 7557

FOR IOP/M, IEA, STATE FOR EA

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: THE MOSCOW SUMMIT

1. MOST MAJOR HONG KONG PAPERS JULY 4 GAVE HEADLINE TREATMENT TO THE CONCLUSION OF THE U.S.-SOVIET AGREEMENTS ON DEFENSIVE NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND UNDERGROUND NUCLEAR TESTS. MANY JULY 5 PAPERS GAVE PROMINENT PLAY TO WORLD REACTION TO THE SUMMIT RESULTS AND PRESIDENT NIXON'S TELEVISED STATEMENT ON ARRIVAL HOME.

2. HEAVY COMMENT CAME FROM THE PRO-PRC PRESS. WEN WEI PAO'S JULY 4 EDITORIAL IS REPRESENTATIVE OF THE LEFTIST VIEW: "... ON THE MAJOR ISSUE OF LIMITING OFFENSIVE NUCLEAR WEAPONS NO AGREEMENT WAS REACHED... THE SOVIET-U.S. RACE IN DEVELOPING OFFENSIVE NUCLEAR WEAPONS IS CERTAIN TO INTENSIFY FROM NOW ON." REFERRING TO THE AGREEMENTS LIMITING ABM SYSTEMS AND UNDERGROUND TESTS, WEN WEI CHARGED: "THE SOVIET UNION AND THE U.S. APPARENTLY HAVE ANOTHER DESIGN IN SIGNING THESE AGREEMENTS. HAVING COMPLETED CONSTRUCTION OF THEIR OWN ABM SYSTEMS AND CONDUCTED ENOUGH UNDERGROUND NUCLEAR TESTS, THEY NOW WANT TO INFLUENCE AND TIE UP THE HANDS OF OTHER COUNTRIES... SO THAT THEY THEMSELVES, THE TWO NUCLEAR HEGEMONISTS, CAN MAINTAIN THEIR NUCLEAR MONOPOLY AND CARRY OUT NUCLEAR BLACKMAIL... HENCE THIS... IS ACTUALLY THE BEGINNING OF A NEW AND EVEN MORE INTENSE CONTENTION...

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REALITY HAS REPEATEDLY SHOWN THAT THE CONTENTION BETWEEN THE

TWO HEGEMONISTS, THE SOVIET UNION AND THE U.S., IS ALLOUT, ABSOLUTE AND LONG-TERM, WHILE THEIR COLLUSION IS PARTIAL, RELATIVE AND TEMPORARY." TA KUNG PAO ALSO COMMENTED ALONG SAME LINES.

3. THE TA KUNG PAO ENGLISH LANGUAGE WEEKLY JULY 4 ALSO RAN A PARTY-LINING PIECE BY JULIAN SCHUMAN DATELINED PEKING HEADED "DETENTE' -- A SMOKESCREEN." THE ARTICLE SAYS "WHATEVER THE RESULTS OF THE NIXON-BREZHNEV SUMMIT MEETING, CHINA'S POSITION IS THERE CAN BE NO REAL US-SOVIET DETENTE," AND CONTINUES, "IN CHINA'S EYES, DETENTE IS A SMOKESCREEN FOR CONFRONTATION BETWEEN THE TWO SUPERPOWERS." THE ARTICLE REPEATS THE STANDARD PRC LINE ABOUT SOVIET BLACK DEEDS AROUND THE WORLD: MILITARY EXPANSION AGAINST EUROPE, BUILD UP OF ICBMS, CONTROL OVER EASTERN EUROPE, ECONOMIC EXPLOITATION OF MIDDLE EAST AND INDIA THROUGH AID PROGRAMS, AND THE THREAT AGAINST CHINA ITSELF. "THESE ACTIONS," SCHUMAN CONCLUDES, "ARE IN DIRECT CONFLICT WITH US INTERESTS, MAKING ANY KIND OF PERMANENT DETENTE BETWEEN MOSCOW AND WASHINGTON IMPOSSIBLE."

4. THE INDEPENDENT SING PAO JULY 4, ALSO COMMENTING ON THE TWO LAST AGREEMENTS, SAID: "YET THESE TWO AGREEMENTS DO NOT REFLECT THAT THE TWO SUPERPOWERS HAVE DROPPED THEIR MUTUAL DISTRUST. IN FACT, THE SOVIET UNION FEARS A SUDDEN U.S. NUCLEAR ATTACK, AND THE U.S. SIMILARLY FEARS A SUDDEN SOVIET NUCLEAR ATTACK. FOR THIS REASON THEY HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO AGREE ON LIMITING THE OFFENSIVE NUCLEAR ARMS RACE."

5. THE MODERATELY PRO-ROC SING TAO WAN PAO JULY 4 TOOK A DIFFERENT VIEW: "THE U.S.-SOVIET SUMMIT IS ON THE WHOLE... SUCCESSFUL. THE MOST IMPORTANT QUESTION IS THAT, DESPITE THEIR FAILURE TO REACH AGREEMENT ON FULL ABANDONMENT OF THE NUCLEAR RACE, THE AGREEMENTS SIGNED YESTERDAY CONCERNING ABM SYSTEMS AND UNDERGROUND NUCLEAR TESTING CONSTITUTE OBVIOUSLY A FURTHER STEP TOWARD THE ULTIMATE OBJECTIVE... THAT LIMITATION CAN BE GRADUALLY CARRIED OUT, OR THAT PART OF THE RACE CAN BE ABANDONED, SHOULD BE REGARDED AS SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS"
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ACTION EA-14

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TO USIA WASHDC PRIORITY

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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USLO PEKING

UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 HONG KONG 7557

FOR IOP/M, IEA, STATE FOR EA

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: THE MOSCOW SUMMIT

6. THE CONSERVATIVE WAH KU YAT PO JULY 4 SAID THE 10-YEAR ECONOMIC COOPERATION AGREEMENT WAS THE MOST IMPORTANT OUTCOME OF THE SUMMIT. NOTING THAT THE U.S. CONGRESS SEEMED WARY OF CLOSE TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION WITH MOSCOW, WAH KIU REMARKED THAT UNTAPPED SOVIET OIL AND NATURAL GAS RESOURCES WERE SUCH AN ATTRACTION THAT THE U.S. "WOULD HAVE TO EXERCISE THE HIGHEST WISDOM" IN ECONOMIC COOPERATION WITH THE SOVIET UNION.

7. SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST, COLONY'S LEADING ENGLISH DAILY RUNS EDITORIAL JULY 5, HEADED "MAKINGS OF A NEW COLD WAR": EXCERPTS FOLLOW:

8. "FAR FROM BEING DISCOURAGED BY THE FAILURE OF HIS 1973 YEAR OF EUROPE, THE U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE, DR. HENRY KISSINGER, PRESSED ON TO MAKE OF 1974 THE YEAR IN WHICH TO ACHIEVE SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS TOWARDS NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT.

9. "HOWEVER, AS THE JOINT NIXON-BREZHNEV COMMUNIQUE INDICATES, HE HAS BEEN BADLY LET DOWN AGAIN.

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10. "NOT ONLY HAS THE U.S. FAILED TO SECURE THE KREMLIN'S APPROVAL FOR A PERMANENT ACCORD ON STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATION, SHE COULD NOT EVEN OBTAIN A TOTAL BAN ON ALL NUCLEAR TESTING.

11. "INSTEAD OF A NEW LASTING TREATY ON LIMITING STRATEGIC ARMS, TO REPLACE THE EXISTING INTERIM PACT, MOSCOW GOT WASHINGTON TO ACCEPT IN PRINCIPLE A NEW 10-YEAR ACCORD ON WHICH DISCUSSIONS ARE TO BEGIN BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR.

12. "MR. NIXON, OF COURSE, HAD NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO ACCEPT IT OR TO RETURN HOME EMPTY-HANDED.

13. "THE NEGATIVE RESULTS OF THE NIXON-BREZHNEV TALKS WERE MORE OR LESS EXPECTED FOR... MR. NIXON WAS IN NO POSITION TO NEGOTIATE FROM A POSITION OF STRENGTH.

14. "HIS WEAKNESS, CAUSED BY THE WATERGATE AFFAIR AND OTHER SCANDALOUS DISCLOSURES AT HOME, WAS OBVIOUSLY CUNNINGLY EXPLOITED BY THE KREMLIN.

15. "...AS FAR AS NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT IS CONCERNED, THE SITUATION IS BACK TO SQUARE ONE.

16. "MOWCOW WANTS TO TIP THE OVERALL BALANCE IN HER FAVOUR AND HAS NOW BEEN GIVEN THE CHANCE TO DO SO AND, HAVING GAINED AN ADVANTAGE OVER WASHINGTON, THE KREMLIN IS NOT EXPECTED TO SOFTEN ITS ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE EUROPEAN CONFERENCE ON SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION AND THE TALKS ON MUTUAL AND BALANCED REDUCTION OF FORCES IN EUROPE. ALL THIS HAS THE MAKINGS OF A NEW COLD WAR. UNQUOTE.
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